

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list.

Which meeting did you attend?

St Charles (-by proxy-)
MN

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need — Electricity Demand is falling past several years
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources — In Valley, Towers are 2 1/2 Valley Depth
- ☒ Proximity to residences — Too close to my house → decreases value
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation) [See below]
- ☒ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors) —
- ☒ Historic and cultural sites — Crosses very close to Native burial sites
- ☒ Radio or television interference
- ☒ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety — I have to drive under every day ~ 4x
- ☒ Other: Blinking Tower lights on 3 sides of me
as lines come off ridge - into valley & back up on another ridge

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

- ① In Winona Transmission Lines Cross
Pleasant Valley (County Rd 17) Through
last open spaces in Area City of Winona has and
is annexing from Wilson Township - intended building
sites for ~ 500 homes.
- ② Crosses Native prairie, interferes with Mississippi
Flyway. Crosses Agahaming Park + Preserve
in Winona. Important nesting & feeding site for
listed (rare, threatened, endangered) species

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☐ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
but also large gardens + orchard; Spectacular
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I live in Pleasant Valley along Side ^{Winona} County Road 17
in Wilson Township. I have retired and will
sell my home in next few years. Power line
nearby (2-4 miles) and under which I will have
to drive will decrease the value of my property.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

- crosses Native ~~land~~ ridge Side ^{Pleasant} ~~Valley~~
- crosses near or over Native American ^{Winona}
burial sites (depending on precise location)

Fragments Miss Valley Bluff forests which are
critical for small bird migration + feeding/resting spots

crosses through Winona's Agassiz Park + Preserve -
a wildlife Refuge + home to bird + mammal species
concern species

Power line corridor construction will vastly spread
invasive species of a major concern here: common + glossy buckthorn,
garlic mustard, leafy spurge, honeysuckle, Queen Anne's lace,
wild parsnip

I-163-001

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-163-002

Per view

Apparently did not mention that U.S. electricity needs are falling for past several years - as described in Wall Street Journal and several technical/scientific journals I subscribe to.

I-163-003

~~Adequately~~ Did not adequately address fairness of me and most other Minnesota residents in paying for power lines when the power is not coming from power lines beyond the points east of Minnesota should NOT be at our expense.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: C. Jefferson

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: 28067 County Rd 17

City: Winona State: MN Zip Code: 55987

Daytime Phone (Optional):

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-163-002

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

I-163-003

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-163-002.

I-163-004

Your comment has been noted. Impacts to historic and archeological resources affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-163-005

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to wildlife will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-163-006

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-163-005.

I-163-007

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts resulting from construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line will be addressed in resource sections throughout the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.